

Proposed Wage Increase for Tea Workers

A proposed increase in minimum wage for tea plantation workers in Assam, India

Basic Expenses

Cost of Clothing

Rs 24 per day

Labour norms dictate minimum wage should provide sufficient income to purchase 72 yards of cloth annually for clothing

Cost of Food

Rs 188 per day

Basic food expenditure needed to feed a family of 2 adults and 2 children based on a diet of 2700 calories per day

Additional Costs

Essential Services

Rs 53 per day

The Supreme Court of India has calculated that 25% of the basic expenses should be provided to cover children's education, Medicare, marriage, and retirement

Allowance for Housing

Rs 22 per day

Adding a housing cost allowance amounting to 10% of total basic expenses

Fuel & Electricity

Rs 43 per day

15th Indian Labour Conference directs that 20% of total basic expenses should be added for fuel, lighting, and other costs

₹330
per day

Demanding a Just Wage

Based on minimum wage standards set forth by the Tripartite Committee of the 15th Indian Labour Conference and the Supreme Court of India, a survey of four districts in Assam was carried out in June 2014. The survey found that tea garden workers should be earning a minimum wage of Rs 330, or \$5.50 USD, per day.

As established in the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948, costs associated with housing, medical and electricity cannot be included as part of minimum wage.